DATELINE NO. 93 NEW YORK
ALICE RICHMAN SCHACHNER

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ERIC SLOANE REMEMBERS AMERICA
(VOICED PIECE INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: DATELINE: NEW YORK -- PICTURES IN SOUND OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS IN NEW YORK CITY -- BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VOICE OF AMERICA EACH WEEK (AT THIS TIME). TODAY, ALICE RICHMAN SCHACHNER'S REPORT ON A NEW YORK EXHIBIT DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO THE WORK OF A MAN WHO HAS SPENT HIS LIFE RECORDING SOME OF THE GOOD AND VALUABLE THINGS OF THE AMERICAN PAST.

VOICE: ERIC SLOANE'S WORLD IS, IN HIS OWN WORDS, ONE OF "QUIET RECOLLECTIONS." BUT, MR. SLOANE IS NOT A PARTICULARLY QUIET MAN. NOW SEVENTY-ONE YEARS OLD, HE IS AS HE HAS EVER BEEN: AN OUTSPOKEN TRADITIONALIST IN A TIME OF SHIFTING FADS AND FANCIES. HIS REPUTATION AS A RESPECTED ARTIST WAS ESTABLISHED LONG AGO. BUT HE IS ALSO THE AUTHOR OF THIRTY-FIVE BOOKS AND THE OWNER OF AN UNUSUAL MUSEUM. EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE REFLECTS HIS LOVE FOR THIS COUNTRY'S RURAL PAST.

IN NINETEEN SEVENTY-ONE, MR. SLOANE PUBLISHED A BOOK CALLED "I REMEMBER AMERICA." TO SUPPORT THOSE RECOLLECTIONS HE PAINTED THIRTY-SEVEN LANDSCAPE SCENES. THESE PAINTINGS ARE NOW ON EXHIBIT AT NEW YORK'S GRAND CENTRAL GALLERIES AND "I REMEMBER AMERICA" HAS BEEN REISSUED IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. HERE ARE THE FABLED COVERED BRIDGES OF NEW ENGLAND, THE OLD BARNS AND THE GRIST MILLS, AN ABANDONED RAILROAD STATION AND A CHURCH SITTING ON TOP OF A HILL. ALL OF ERIC SLOANE'S PAINTINGS GLOW WITH

VOICE:
(CONT'D) COLOR AND THEIR LUMINOUS CLOUDS REFLECT HIS LONG INTEREST IN THE SKY AND THE WEATHER. THIS EXHIBIT ALSO FEATURES MANY PEN AND INK DRAWINGS OF OLD TOOLS. THESE HOMELY, EVERYDAY OBJECTS HOLD A SPECIAL FASCINATION FOR THIS ARTIST. AND MANY OF THEM ARE BEING PRESERVED IN HIS MUSEUM OF EARLY AMERICAN TOOLS IN CONNECTICUT. DIANE DONOHUE, THE COORDINATOR OF HIS EXHIBIT, TELLS HOW IT GOT STARTED:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- DONOHUE

"HE WOULD GO TO OLD FARM HOUSES OR PLACES WHERE THEY WERE HAVING AUCTIONS AND HE WOULD SEE THE OLD TOOLS SITTING AROUND. HE FELL IN LOVE WITH THEM -- WITH THEIR QUALITY, WITH THEIR CRAFTSMANSHIP. THE FEEL OF THE TOOL AND THE FEEL OF THE WOOD HANDLES ESPECIALLY. HE'S IN LOVE WITH WOOD. AND HE STARTED COLLECTING THEM IN HIS HOUSE AND THE COLLECTION GREW AND GREW AND GREW UNTIL FINALLY HE SAID: 'ILL MAKE A MUSEUM.' AND HE HOUSED THEM IN A BARN IN CONNECTICUT."

VOICE: ERIC SLOANE HAS LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO SEE A VARIETY OF ART STYLES COME AND GO. BUT HIS OWN POINT OF VIEW HAS NEVER CHANGED. "FOR TWENTY YEARS, I'VE BEEN SMILING AND ACCEPTING ABSTRACTS," HE WROTE IN "I REMEMBER AMERICA." BUT, HE ADDED: "ART IS REMEMBERING. ABSTRACT IS REMEMBERING NOTHING." HIS WORK IS WIDELY ADMIRED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WHEN IT FIRST WENT ABROAD IT CREATED A SENSATION:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- DONOHUE

"THIS PARTICULAR COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS WAS VIEWED IN THE SOVIET UNION. IT WENT ON TOUR AND WAS ON DISPLAY AT THE U.S.S.R. ACADEMY OF ARTS IN MOSCOW. IT WAS THERE FOR FOUR WEEKS IN NINETEEN SEVENTY-FOUR. AND WHILE IT WAS THERE IT WAS A TREMENDOUS HIT WITH THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE. THEY CAME BY THE THOUSANDS TO SEE IT.

TAPE:
(CONT'D) THE RESPONSE WAS AMAZING. IT WAS THE FIRST COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS EVER DONE BY AN AMERICAN THAT HAD GONE ON TOUR IN THE SOVIET UNION. ERIC AND HIS WIFE WENT ALONG. HE PRESENTED A PAINTING OF A SICKLE THAT HE HAD DONE AS ONE OF HIS TOOL PAINTINGS TO LEONID BREZHNEV. BREZHNEV RESPONDED WITH A NOTE THANKING HIM VERY MUCH AND SAYING THAT HE WAS VERY PLEASED. AND ESPECIALLY PLEASED BECAUSE A SICKLE WAS A KIND OF UNIVERSAL TOOL THAT REPRESENTED A UNITY BETWEEN THE AMERICAN FARMERS AND THE FARMERS OF THE SOVIET UNION."

VOICE: ERIC SLOANE'S MOST RECENT WORK GOES ON DISPLAY THIS SUMMER WHEN THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION OPENS ITS LONG-AWAITED AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THERE VISITORS WILL SEE AND EXPERIENCE HIS SIX-STORY HIGH MURAL WHICH IS FILLED ENTIRELY BY CLOUDS AND LIGHT. IT IS THE ARTIST'S PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN SKY WHICH DOMINATES THE LANDSCAPE HE LOVES.

ANNCR: REMEMBERING AMERICA ... THE WORK OF PAINTER ERIC SLOANE. YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO DATELINE, NEW YORK. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT _____ FOR ANOTHER PROGRAM IN THIS SERIES.

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